

# The President's Report

Issue 81 March 2016

## A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Both federal and state public policy makers talk frequently about higher education accountability. At the University of Louisville, accountability means: 1) academic accountability; 2) financial accountability; and 3) environmental accountability. We are proud of some of the recent news, reinforcing our commitment to environmental accountability.

UofL has become the first college in Kentucky to earn a gold rating in sustainability from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. UofL is one of only 92 schools in the world to achieve the gold rating; five other ACC schools have accomplished this feat.

Through its Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), the AASHE

measures progress in environmental, social and economic stewardship. UofL jumped to the gold rating with the help of several initiatives, including new nutrition education plans and the biennial Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy, an award that recognizes outstanding renewable energy ideas and achievements with proven global impact.

The Conn Prize is something else worthy of celebration. We presented the \$50,000 award, which is managed by the Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research at the J.B. Speed School of Engineering, for the second time in March. The recipient, Dr. Daniel Nocera, is the Patterson Rockwood Professor of Energy at Harvard University.

It was an honor to personally present Dr. Nocera with the Conn Prize. The university was very fortunate to host a chemist and professor of his stature on campus for several days this month.

Sustainability and environmental friendliness are among our values at the University of Louisville. By promoting these values, we ensure that we will leave our campus and our community in better shape than we found them.

**James R. Ramsey** President, University of Louisville



*UofL President James Ramsey, right, conferred the 2015 Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy to Dr. Daniel Nocera, left, the Patterson Rockwood Professor of Energy at Harvard University.*

## UofL President receives public service award from U.S. Army

In recognition of his support of the Kentucky National Guard, President James R. Ramsey was honored with one of the highest public service awards a civilian can receive.



*Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, left, former commander of the Kentucky National Guard, presents the U.S. Army Commander's Award for Public Service to UofL President James Ramsey.*

Ramsey accepted the U.S. Army Commander's Award for Public Service from Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, former commander of the Kentucky National Guard, on March 7.

"As a direct result of his leadership, the University of Louisville has instituted several policies to assist our guardsman in the pursuit of higher education," said Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini. "His exemplary efforts and patriotism bring great distinction to himself, the Kentucky National Guard, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

UofL's achievements during Dr. Ramsey's tenure include offering in-state tuition to all Kentucky Guardsmen and their dependents, offering an annual scholarship to a ChalleNGe Academy cadet, and developing the Kentucky National Guard's partnership with the Republic of Djibouti.

"The University of Louisville is committed to helping our military personnel and their families pursue the dream of a college education," Ramsey said. "I am proud to accept this award on behalf of these brave men and women. UofL's commitment to them will not waver."

## Harvard chemist wins UofL's Conn Prize

A world-renowned chemist who discovered a way to convert sunlight into chemical fuel is the winner of the 2015 Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy.

Daniel Nocera, a professor from Harvard University, received the \$50,000 prize from UofL President James R. Ramsey at a ceremony March 7. Managed by the Conn Center for Renewable Energy at the J.B. Speed School of Engineering, the prize recognizes outstanding renewable energy ideas and achievements with proven global impact.

The Conn Prize is named for the late daughter of Hank and Rebecca Conn.



*UofL President James Ramsey honored the UofL women's swim team during a March Board of Overseers meeting for their 8th place finish at the NCAA national meet.*

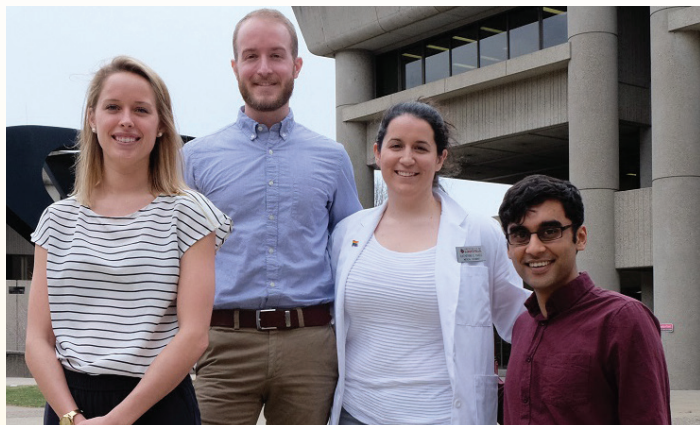
## Med school students win prize for plan to reduce physician burnout

UofL School of Medicine students took third place in a national contest after creating a program designed to keep physicians and medical students healthy.

Students Melinda Ruberg, Matthew Neal, Anish Deshmukh and Katherine Yared developed “Happy Healers, Healthy Humans: A wellness curricular model as a means of effecting cultural change, reducing burnout and improving patient outcomes,” for the American Medical Association’s inaugural Medical Education Innovation Challenge. The model allows medical schools to educate physicians in a way that improves their own health, enabling them to better care for their patients.

Several aspects of the team’s plan to support a more compassionate approach to medical education already are in place at UofL, such as a student wellness committee, patient interview sessions for preclinical students, and faculty members who champion an environment of compassion as part of the school’s Compassion and Mindfulness Work Team. In addition, the student team suggested elements such as mutual accountability, health monitoring technology and the creation of wellness-oriented spaces in medical schools.

“A big part of our project was making wellness not something you do on the side, but institutionalizing it so it is more of a cultural shift and is fostered within the system,” Ruberg said.



*UofL students and Medical Education Innovation Challenge authors Melinda Ruberg, Matthew Neal, Katherine Yared and Anish Deshmukh.*

## UofL students take journey through Civil Rights history

Eight students from UofL’s Martin Luther King Scholars Program headed south this month to trace King’s footsteps during the fight for civil rights.

The 2016 Civil Rights Immersion Experience was held March 11-14. Students traveled to historic sites in Alabama and Tennessee that were important locations during King’s involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. In Selma, Alabama, students walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where in 1965 demonstrators were attacked during a civil rights march. They also toured the Rosa Parks Museum and the Southern Poverty Law Center, before their final stop at the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, where King was assassinated in 1968.

Prior to the trip, the scholars studied integral moments of the Civil Rights Movement and each was responsible for an academic presentation at one of the tour stops.

The MLK Scholars Program is focuses on leadership development and civic engagement. Each year, 10 African American or Hispanic high school graduates from Kentucky or Southern Indiana are chosen to be MLK Scholars and receive full-tuition scholarships to UofL.

## UofL leading the state in sustainability efforts



The University of Louisville is the most sustainable college in Kentucky according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

UofL received a gold rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), the global standard AASHE uses to gauge progress in environmental, social and economic stewardship.

UofL is the only university or college in the state to hold a gold STARS rating, and one of only 92 gold schools in the world. Only five other ACC schools have a gold rating.

“The University of Louisville is committed to accountability: academic accountability, financial accountability and environmental accountability. We continue to be a leader in sustainability issues,” said UofL President James Ramsey. “Achieving measurable gains in campus sustainability is part of UofL’s strategic plan, and I am proud of the progress being made here.”

Among the efforts that helped push UofL to gold were the Nutrition Navigators food and nutrition education plan and the UofL Smart Plate guidelines for healthy eating, UofL’s contributions to the Beargrass Falls Environmental Park, and UofL’s new interdisciplinary masters in sustainability.

## Joint MBA program receives top ranking



The joint University of Kentucky-University of Louisville Executive MBA recently was named a Tier One Global EMBA program for 2016 by CEO Magazine.

“This ranking is a wonderful recognition of the unique partnership forged between Kentucky’s two top research universities to serve the Commonwealth in our region,” said T. Vernon Foster, executive director, MBA Programs and Career Management at the University of Louisville College of Business.

The Executive MBA program is aimed at rising executives from regional organizations. Faculty from UofL’s College of Business and UK’s Gatton College of Business and Economics teach sessions that are split between the UK campus in Lexington and the UofL Campus in Louisville. The program’s first class graduated in December 2015.



*UofL’s MLK Scholars and chaperones recently traveled the path of the Civil Rights movement through Alabama and Tennessee as part of the annual Civil Rights immersion experience.*

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